LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1939

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

ETC., ETC.,

OF THE

PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT

BY

G. E. HARTHAN, M.B., B.C., Camb.,
Medical Officer of Health,

AND

J. W. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector, Building Surveyor,
Petroleum Inspector and
Housing Manager.

Pershore Rural District Council.

Chairman:

MAJOR W. H. TAYLOR, J.P.

Chairman of General Purposes Committee:

MAJOR W. H. TAYLOR.

Chairman of Sanitary and Housing Committee:

MAJOR W. H. TAYLOR.

Chairman of Pershore Parochial Committee:

S. G. PARKES, ESQ.

Chairman of Pershore Water Supply:

C. A. MUMFORD, ESQ.

Clerk to the Council:

F. J. NICHOLAS, Council Offices, Pershore.

Medical Officer of Health:

G. E. HARTHAN, M.B., B.C.

Highways Surveyor:

H. F. ORCHARD.

Sanitary Inspector, Building Surveyor, Petroleum Inspector and Housing Manager:

J. W. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.

TO THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of your District for the year, 1939

The following are the chief Statistics for 1939, viz.:

Area in Acres			57,801
Population, Census 1931			13,780
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1939.			
(a) For calculating Birth-Rates			13,180
(b) ,, ,, Death-Rates			13,550
Rateable Value (1st April 1939)			£47,227
Estimated product of a penny rate			£185
Live Births (for calculating Birth-Rates)	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	102	92	194
Illegitimate	6	6	12
Live Births (for calculating Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates).			
Legitimate	105	92	197
Illegitimate	6	6	12
Birth-rate for 1,000 of estimated resident Population.			15.6
	Males	Females	Total
Still Births	7	4	11
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births			50
	Males	Females	Total
Deaths	67	89	156
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			11.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Deaths	Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	
Total	Nil	

Death rate of infants under one year of age.	
All infants per 1,000 live births	53
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	41
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	250
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	Nil

Comparison with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows:—

	England and Wales	District
Birth-Rate	15.0	15.6
Death-Rate	12.1	11.5
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	50	53

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following Table gives the causes of Death during 1939, viz.:—

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Measles	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	—	5	5
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	2	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1
G.P.I. Tabes, etc.	—	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	12	7	19
Diabetes	—	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	8	8	16
Heart Disease	17	31	48
Aneurysm	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	4	8
Bronchitis	2	—	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Diarrhœa, etc.	—	—	—
Appendicitis, etc.	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	2	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	1	2
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, etc.	4	5	9
Senility...	1	6	7
Suicide	1	1	2
Other Deaths from Violence	4	3	7
Other defined Diseases	7	8	15
Causes ill defined or unknown	—	—	—
Totals	67	89	156

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

These remain the same as set out in previous reports; except that a new arrangement has been made between Local Authorities in the County to pool their accommodation for the reception of cases of infectious disease which need removal from home for isolation or treatment in hospital.

A convenient plan whereby each Authority aids another in time of need, if circumstances permit. In one area if all hospital beds become filled, further cases are sent to the hospital where there are empty beds in another district.

And with modern motor ambulances transport of the cases can be effected easily without detriment to the patients.

The expansion of local fever hospitals is impracticable in this war time; and, by this arrangement, the need for this in any particular area is relieved.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.

Until war broke out reasonable hopes were held that, by arrangements then under discussion with the Coventry Authorities, supplies might be made available for conveyance to many parts of the District where, hitherto, it has not been possible to provide good water.

But with the Coventry Scheme indefinitely postponed, nothing can be done now except make the best of existing supplies.

The water from Overbury is uniformly good; but that from some of the smaller supplies is often far from satisfactory.

As the prospect of discarding any of these small supplies has now vanished, I recommend that they should be provided with appropriate apparatus to chlorinate the water, so that the continued use of it may be made with safety.

Housing.

I append Mr. Holmes's Report. The statistical information therein records the continuance in 1939 of the progress steadily made in previous years with the building of new houses, the renovation of old ones and the demolition of bad ones.

Housing conditions have been greatly improved, and it is lamentable that, for the time being, little can be done towards solving the problems that remain.

It is, however, fortunate that so much improvement has already been made, now that the District has to find habitation for a large number of evacuees and refugeees from war stricken areas.

Evacuation.

This took place in September when the number that came was 867 which was less than half we had been led to expect.

Complete arrangements were made for their reception at railhead, assembly and sorting out at the County Senior School and transport to billets, and for their reception in the villages.

Some of the children were verminous, or found suffering from impetigo or other unsightly skin eruptions and other infirmities distressing to those who received them.

These children raised many difficulties for the Billeting Officer in arranging and adjusting billets. Great patience and tolerance was shown by many of the billeters who received children whose advent to their houses must have caused them some dismay. All honour is due to those who accepted them with good humour and kindness of heart.

No infectious diseases were introduced, and this sudden influx had no ill effect upon health in the District; while that of the evacuees in many cases greatly improved.

When the expected air-attacks on the cities did not develop many of the children drifted back home until by the end of the year the number had dwindled to 400.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The duties under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, are carried out by the Inspectors of Weights and Measures. Sanitary Inspectors can also take samples under the Acts.

All dairies and slaughterhouses are under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector, by whom they are visited periodically.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	69	69	–
Diphtheria	6	6	1
Enteric Fever ...	2	2	–
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	2	–
Pneumonia	8	–	3
Dysentery	–	–	–
Measles	1	–	–
Whooping Cough ...	1	–	–

Analysis of Total Notified Infectious Cases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939.

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Measles	Whooping Cough
Under 1 year.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1— 2 years.	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
3— 4 ,,	8	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
5—10 ,,	35	2	1	–	–	–	1	1
11—15 ,,	13	1	1	–	1	–	–	–
16—20 ,,	4	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
21—35 ,,	5	2	–	3	1	–	–	–
36—45 ,,	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
46—65 ,,	1	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
66 and over.	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
Totals	69	6	2	3	8	–	1	1

Scarlet Fever

The following Table gives particulars of the Sixty-nine cases of this disease notified during 1939 all of whom were removed to Hospital.

Locality	Occurred	Total
Charlton ...	January (1)	1
Bredon	January (1) June (1)	2
Fladbury ...	March (1)	1
Pershore ...	March (1) April (6) May (6) June (3) July (3) August (1) September (3) October (4) November (10) December (2)	39
Birlingham ...	November (1)	1
Elmley Castle ...	April (1)	1
Wyre	May (1) August (1)	2
Drakes Broughton	May (1)	1
Pinvin	May (1) June (3) July (3) August (5) September (2)	14
Defford	July (1) October (2)	3
Grafton Flyford	July (1)	1
Norton	October (1)	1
Wick	November (1)	1
L. Comberton ...	November (1)	1
Totals	Jan. (2) Mar. (2) Aprl. (7) May (9) June (7) July (8) Aug. (7) Sep. (5) Oct. (7) Nov. (13) Dec. (2)	69

Diphtheria.

Six cases of this disease occurred during the year, Four at Pershore (One in September, two in October and the other in December) One at Defford in July and the remaining case at Charlton in December. All the patients were treated in Hospital.

Enteric Fever.

Two cases were notified both at Elmley Castle, the one in October and the other in December.

Pneumonia.

Eight cases were notified during the year and three deaths due to this disease were registered.

Only some types of this disease are notifiable hence the difference in the number of cases and deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three cases were notified during the year, one at Eckington in August, one at Norton-juxta-Kempsey in September and the remaining case at Pershore in December. Two of the cases were removed to Hospital and all three made good recoveries.

Whooping Cough and Measles.

As from the 1st November 1939 notification of these Infectious Diseases became compulsory and from that date to the end of 1939 one case of Whooping Cough and one case of Measles were notified.

Tuberculosis.

The following Table gives particulars of the 12 new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease in the area during 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases. Pulmonary. M	New Cases. Pulmonary. F.	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. M.	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. F.	Deaths. Pulmonary. M.	Deaths. Pulmonary. F.	Deaths. Nun-Polmonary. M.	Deaths. Nun-Polmonary. F.
Under 1 year ...	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
1— 4 years ...	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
5—14 ,, ...	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
15—24 ,, ...	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–
25—34 ,, ...	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	–
35—44 ,, ...	1	2	–	–	–	2	1	1
45—54 ,, ...	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
55—64 ,, ...	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
65 and upwards...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals ...	1	6	2	3	–	5	1	2

Number of deaths from non-notified Tuberculosis ... ... —

Total number of Tuberculosis deaths 8

Schools.

It was not necessary to close any of the Schools in the district during the year, owing to illness.

I append the report of Mr. J. W. Holmes, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, to whom I am again deeply indebted for his great help and co-operation given to me throughout the year.

Your obedient Servant,

G. E. HARTHAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sheriff's Lench,
Evesham.

November, 1940.

PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the year ended the 31st December, 1939.

Infectious Diseases, etc.	Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease	89
	Houses disinfected after notifiable disease	77
	Other houses disinfected	25
Housing	Houses erected: (*a*) By Local Authority	21
	(*b*) By private enterprise or subsidy ..	17
	1. (*a*) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	176
	(*b*) Number (included above) inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	131
	(*c*) Number of houses found unfit for habitation ..	24
	(*d*) Number of houses (excluding *c*) not in all respects fit for habitation	101
	2. Number of defective houses rendered fit after informal action	40
	3. Housing Act, 1936, Sections 9, 10 and 16.	
	(*a*) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs or defects remedied ..	12
	(*b*) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by	
	(*a*) The Owner	12
	(*b*) Local Authority in default of owner ..	Nil
	4. Public Health Acts.	
	(*a*) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs or defects remedied ..	Nil
	(*b*) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by	
	(*a*) The owner	Nil
	(*b*) Local Authority in default of owner ..	Nil
	5. Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 and 13.	
	(*a*) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
	(*b*) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
	6. Housing Act, 1936, Section 12.	
	(*a*) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	Nil
	(*b*) Number of Closing Orders determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
	7. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.	
	(*a*) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	49
	Number of families dwelling therein	49
	Number of persons dwelling therein	297
	(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
	(*c*) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
	Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	55
	(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
	(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil
	Dirty Houses dealt with	3
	Yards paved or repaved	25
Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.	No. observed	12
	No. dealt with, as insanitary	Nil

House Drainage, etc.	No. laid or relaid	74
	No. trapped, ventilated and repaired	24
	No. of obstructed drains dealt with	39
	No. of house-drains tested	74
	No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified	31
	In what parishes, if any, is there need for a sewerage scheme, or improvements in sewage disposal	See past report
Water Closets	No. of privy or pail conversions including additional W.C.'s	10
	No. of defective W.C.'s remedied	9
	No. of Slop Closets, converted to W.C.'s with fresh water flush	Nil
	No. of additional W.C.'s put in	5
Scavenging	No. of houses from which refuse was removed	Pershore, and Seven outside Parishes
	No. of privies cleansed	14
	No. of ashpits cleansed	14
	No. of portable receptacles cleansed	appro. 200 w'kly
	No. of ashpits removed and ash bins provided	6
	How often is house refuse removed	Pershore w'kly Elsewhere monthly
Smoke Nuisances	No. under observation	1
	No. abated	Nil
Offensive Trades (Sec. 112 P.H.A. 1875 Sec. 51 P.H.A.A.A. 1907).	No. under observation	Nil
	No. improperly conducted	Nil
	No. newly established, with consent of Council	Nil
Water Supply	No. of wells sunk	10
	No. of wells cleansed and repaired	5
	No. of wells closed as polluted	Nil
	No. of houses supplied from waterworks during year	61
	No. of samples of water sent for analysis	40
	No. of houses with contaminated or deficient water-supplies dealt with	12
	Is there a deficiency in any parish or part of the District? If so, please give name of parish or part?	See past reports
Slaughter Houses	Public Slaughter houses	Nil
	No. registered (private)	8
	No. licensed (private)	6
	No. of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	2
	Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported	Nil
	No. of inspections	217
Milk	No. of registered dairy farms in the area	149
	Total No. of Retailers in district	78
	No. of Licences under Milk (Special Designations) Order:—	
	Approximate No. of milking cows in the district	1500
Canal Boats	No. of boats on register	Nil
	No. of boats registered during year	
	No. of certificates renewed	
	No. of boats inspected (for registration or otherwise)	
	No. of contraventions of Acts and Regulations dealt with	
Lodging Houses	No. on Register	Nil
	No. of inspections	
	No. of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	
Houses Let in Lodgings	No. on Register	Nil
	No. of inspections	
	No. of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	

	Pasteurised	Accredited	Tuberculin Tested
Bottlers	—	2	—
Retailers	1	—	—
Producers	—	21	—

Food	No. of seizures as unfit for consumption	Nil
	Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for consumption } Amount destroyed as unfit for consumption: Meat	Several Livers and Lungs
	Other Foodstuffs	Nil
	Cases of animals affected with Tuberculosis: Oxen ..	3
	Pigs	4
Food and Drugs' Act	Samples taken for analysis	4
	No. of samples certified genuine	4
	No. of samples certified adulterated	Nil
Other Matters	Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, Cases dealt with ..	Nil
	Verminous Persons Cases dealt with	Nil
	Verminous Houses do.	3
	Stagnant Water do.	1
	Nuisances arising from domestic animals	1
Legal Proceedings	Convictions obtained with regard to insanitary conditions ..	
	Convictions obtained with regard to unsound food ..	Nil
Outbreaks of Infectious Disease or other abnormal illness during the year	During the year 69 Cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 40 of these occurring in Pershore from March to the beginning of December and 14 in Pinvin from May to the beginning of September	
Have any large sanitary improvements taken place during the year? If so, please give particulars.	Peopleton Sewer cleaned and a considerable portion renewed Eckington—Sewer in Jarvis Street renewed. New Sewer laid through the main part of Lower Moor	
What are the chief sanitary requirements of the district?	See previous reports	
No. of cases of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever during the year with any notes as to possible origin	2 Cases of Paratyphoid Fever—1 in Oct.; 1 in Dec.	

In conclusion I am greatly indebted to Dr. Harthan, the Medical Officer of Health, for his valued assistance during the year and to the members of my department.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. W. HOLMES,
Sanitary Inspector.

W. Fearnside, Printer.